

## OITA International Program Priorities

### Mercury

- Major transboundary pollutant with over 70% of all mercury deposited in U.S. originating from global sources
- Minamata Convention – in force since August 2017; U.S. is a party

### Lead Paint

- Lead paint standard in the US 90ppm, in the developing world lead paint levels of 10,000ppm and higher and is a major source of lead exposure for children
- 70 percent of countries do not have laws; Goal is for all countries to have laws
- Childhood exposure leads to lower IQ, behavior problems, and violence
- Economic costs in developing countries of \$977 Billion/year

### Marine Litter

- By 2050, the world's oceans will have 1 pound of plastic for every 3 pounds of fish.
- 80% of marine litter comes from land based sources of trash
- EPA's Domestic and International Trash Free Waters initiative is a multi-disciplinary stakeholder-driven approach prioritizes actions to address lack of solid waste management.

### Minamata Convention on Mercury

Negotiations were successfully concluded at the end of 2013 on the Minamata Convention – the first global legally-binding agreement to reduce mercury pollution. EPA actively participates in reviewing, developing, and negotiating USG positions.

EPA's domestic and international work in this area also includes controlling mercury emissions from power plants, limiting the exposure of artisanal mining communities, and eliminating mercury from a host of global everyday products.

Country Commitments under the Convention:

Reducing Mercury emissions from power plants

Identifying and addressing Artisanal Gold Mining (Asia, Latin America, Africa)

Eliminating mercury in batteries and other products

Closing and managing mercury in Chlor-Alkali Facilities

### Lead Paint

Lead in paint is the biggest source of children's lead exposure globally. High levels of lead have been found in paint in developing countries. In the US the limit for lead in paint is 90 ppm. Data from recent testing in the developing world shows consumer paint products with lead levels exceeding 150,000 ppm. And there is no need to add lead to paint – there are alternatives and the lead-free paint does not cost more. We can protect kids now. We need countries to institute lead paint laws. 70% percent of countries do not have lead paint laws.

Lead leads to loss of IQ, learning and developmental disabilities, and death. It can be especially harmful to children. The IQ losses in children result in staggering economic costs. A recent article estimated that the cost of lead exposure in low- and middle-income countries is \$977 billion.

EPA chairs The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance), a voluntary, cross-sector partnership with Secretariat at WHO and UNEP. The primary goal of the Alliance is to promote establishment of lead paint laws worldwide by 2020. EPA is working with the Department of State to conduct training for ESTH officers in all the regions specifically on lead paint.

### Marine Litter

Trash Free Waters is a stakeholder-based decision-making approach developed by EPA in the US. It focuses on working collaboratively across many sectors to identify problems and to prioritize actions that address the lack solid waste management. The focus of TFW is to prevent and reduce trash from entering inland waterways and eventually, the ocean. EPA is using this experience from the US and applying it to countries that are seeking solutions to their marine litter problem.

At the Our Ocean Conference in 2015, EPA, Peace Corps and UN Environment launched a partnership to implement TFW in the

Caribbean. The initial countries are Jamaica and Panama. TFW Jamaica launched this year and is now starting a pilot project in a rural community to demonstrate improved solid waste management and raised awareness of its impacts on marine litter. Panama will host a stakeholder workshop in August and implement a pilot project thereafter.

After hearing the commitment at the Our Ocean Conference, Peru expressed its desire to join TFW. Stakeholders there are working to improve recycling in a small tourist town and an underserved Afro-Peruvian community in the Municipality of Chincha.